

NEW YEAR’S — BY THE SEA

Could Coney Island supplant Times Square? We head out to the seaside to test it out

By Max Jaeger
The Brooklyn Paper

Could Coney Island become a New Year’s vacation destination? Brooklynites rang in 2015 on the Boardwalk on Dec. 31 at a New Year’s Eve countdown party centered around the Parachute Jump. Borough President Adams promised that the inaugural bash would be a new annual tradition for Coney Island, and an aide suggested that the event could eventually draw tourists to sleep over in Sodom by the Sea.

“You could see people, in future years, coming here for New Year’s Eve, and staying the night for the polar plunge on New Year’s Day,” Borough Hall communications director Stefan Ringel said.

The idea of Coney Island as a year-round tourist destination really captured our newsroom’s imagination, so we put the hypothesis to the test by sending adventure correspondent Max Jaeger on an overnight trip to experience the festivities and soak up some local culture.

The first stop was the New Year’s Eve countdown on the Boardwalk, then a stay at a nearby by-the-hour-hotel — the only available accommodations — and on New Year’s Day, in a feat of truly immersive reporting, our Florida-born reporter delved into the frigid North Atlantic as part of the Polar Bear Club’s annual plunge.

NEW YEAR’S EVE

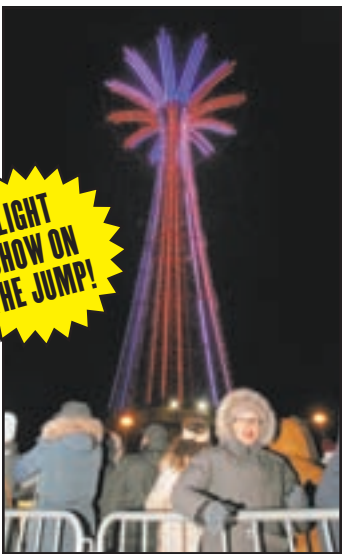
The Borough President really delivered on this one. The event was a free, all-ages fete that stimulated local business and local pride.

The head count in Steeplechase Plaza reached about 3,000, an Office of Emergency Management worker told me. Tom’s of Coney Island, Nathan’s Famous, Peggy O’Neill’s, and, yes, Dunkin’ Donuts overflowed with people at a time the amusement district would normally be a ghost town.

In lieu of bubbly, the crowd filled up on Brooklyn patriotism — it was a treat watching a usually restrained Councilman Mark Treyger (D–Sheepshead



OFF TO A BUMPY START: Victor Cherichetti and Crystal Archo share a kiss at the stroke of midnight at Coney Island’s Steeplechase Plaza during its big New Year’s celebration. The Parachute Jump was the center of attention, but went on the fritz at the decisive moment, displaying the “2” to begin spelling out “2015,” then flashing to another light display. Reporter Max Jaeger checks in to the Harbor Motor Inn at 12:49 am on New Year’s Day. The harbor-side guesthouse only offers rooms at four-hour intervals during the New Year’s holiday, so Jaeger was back at 5 am for check-in Round Two. There was no shortage of characters on the beach for the polar-bear plunge the following morning.



Bay) whip up the crowd with a frenzied “Brooklyn” chant while speakers blared Jay Z’s “Empire State of Mind.”

A DJ kept people dancing — and acted as a de facto emcee, because Adams was shuttling between New Year’s Eve engagements.

People seemed to like what the DJ was laying down, but a guy pushing play on a MacBook doesn’t cut it for me. Treyger said there should be more live entertainment from locals, and I couldn’t agree more. The plan for next year is to select live local acts through a battle-of-the-bands competition.

Of course, there were some drawbacks to partying at midnight in the middle of winter outside on the waterfront. For one, it was insanely cold. How about some propane heaters next time?

Then there were libation considerations. Tom’s was the only Boardwalk eatery open that evening, and Surf Avenue’s Peggy O’Neill’s levied a \$10 cover, forcing thirsty revelers further afield for a flute of New Year’s cheer.



The biggest hiccup I saw was with the Parachute Jump’s light display — the side facing the crowded plaza failed to light up with “2015” at the decisive moment when the countdown finished, stalling at “2,” and skipping to a colored pattern instead. The post-countdown fireworks display also started a few seconds too early. But the real magic was bringing thousands of people together on the Boardwalk in 20-degree weather for a party.

If Adams keeps chipping away at this block of marble, he’ll have a real work of art in a few years.

THE STAY

After the festivities, my lovely assistant and I took a cab to the closest hotel — the Harbor Motor Inn, 1.5 miles from the Parachute Jump on Shore Parkway and 24th Avenue. It was 12:30 am, and buses and trains were running on a Sunday schedule, so rides off of the peninsula were at a premium. We hailed a green cab on Stillwell Avenue. The driver told us his meter was broken and the ride would be \$20. He dropped it to



\$15 when I asked if the Taxi and Limousine Commission knew his meter was broken and pretended to jot down his cab number. Price-gouging is a New Year’s tradition, and a boost to public transit would go a long way towards making New Year’s Eve in far-flung Coney Island a popular destination.

At the motel, the front desk informed us there were no overnight rooms available on New Year’s, so we booked a four-hour one — otherwise know as a hot-sheet suite.

Let’s talk amenities, because the Harbor Motor Inn was lousy with them. First, the sheets in our non-smoking suite were so hot they had burn holes — no kidding, burn holes! The bed had clearly seen a lot of action. Like an old baseball glove, it was wildy and responsive, but had that sag in the middle that can only come from lots of wear.

A large window treated us to a majestic view of Stop & Stor’s corrugated metal wall. But the breathtaking vista

See **CONEY** on page 10

15 to watch in 2015

Compiled by Our
Prognostication Bureau
for The Brooklyn Paper

It’s that time of the year, when we set our sights on the horizon and make some informed guesses about what might be coming down the pike. Here are our 15 people, places, things, and cartoon characters to watch this year.

15: Gowanus goes K-Town

The owners of Red Hook eatery The Good Fork are planning a Korean barbecue restaurant and karaoke den in Gowanus. We are fasting and singing “Don’t Stop Believin’” nonstop in preparation.

14: Etsy

The do-it-yourself juggernaut that allows craftspeople to sell their wares online is expanding into Dumbo Heights, a mixed-use development in the former Watchtower complex. The new headquarters is not set to be finished until 2016, but talk of an initial public offering, which chief executive officer Chad Dickerson has said is “definitely a possible outcome,” and a recent leadership shake-up will give Brooklyn tech gazers plenty to keep track of.

13: Tessa Wilson

Tessa Wilson is a passionate advocate for parents in Williamsburg. She has been a member of the Community Education Council 14 in Williamsburg for 10 years.

In 2015, she aims to bring groups of parents from her district to Albany to hold sit-ins demanding the influence of corporations on politics be diminished.

12: Brooklyn Bridge Park’s Pier 6, and the side of a building

The last lot in Brooklyn Bridge Park set aside for development is

the subject of yet another showdown between activists and the Brooklyn Bridge Park Corporation. Park management has picked 14 proposals for the two towers it wants to rise on the spot, but has not revealed who the developers are, and is hamstrung from making a final pick by an ongoing lawsuit.

Meanwhile, developer Toll Brothers is building a hotel and condo building called Pierhouse alongside Pier 1, and neighbors are outraged that it is blocking part of the view of the Brooklyn Bridge from the Brooklyn Heights Promenade. It is a lot harder to get buildings torn down than it is to build them, so in 2015, our advice is to get used to staring at these walls.

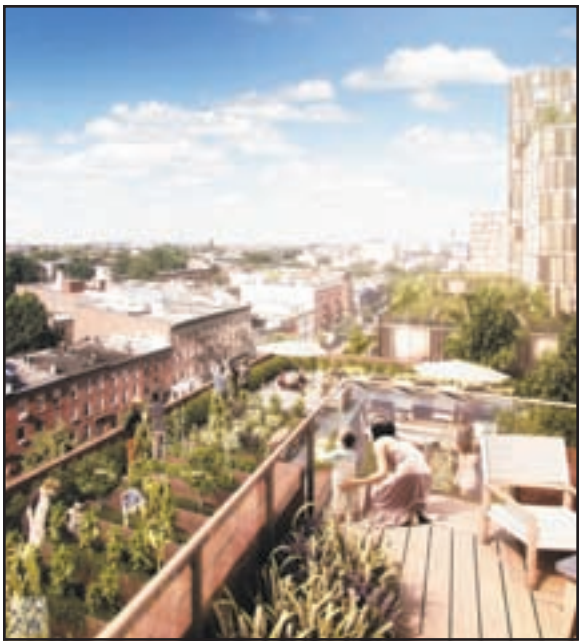
11: Justin Brannan

If you aren’t already paying attention to Bay Ridge’s Justin Brannan, now is the time to start.

In his mid-30s, Brannan is a fixture in Bay Ridge and Dyker Heights, acting as both cheerleader and coach to the in-flux area. He’s connected — Brannan is Bay Ridge Councilman Vincent Gentile’s director of communications, a small-business owner, and president of the Bay Ridge Democrats. His boss is eyeing the now-vacant congressional seat formerly held by tax cheat Michael Grimm. If Gentile gets the job, Brannan could move on Gentile’s Council seat. Brannan called that a “Rube Goldberg scenario,” but we’re not ruling it out.

10: The mega-development formerly known as Long Island College Hospital

Long Island College Hospital is closed, but it is yet to be seen exactly what kind of luxury hous-



A simulated view from the terrace of an upcoming building in the mega-development formerly known as Atlantic Yards, which is still full of surprises after all these years.

ing is going to rise in its place, and what kind of medical service will be provided on-site.

9: The mega-development formerly known as Atlantic Yards

Construction has rebooted at B2, the modular residential skyscraper at Flatbush Avenue and Dean Street besieged throughout 2014 by delays and a contractor dispute involving allegations of design flaws, and ground has broken on a below-market-rate apartment building on Carlton Avenue.

The latter building is the first to start work with Chinese-government-owned developer Greenland as a majority owner, and will be constructed using traditional building techniques, rather than the modular methods Forest City Ratner wanted. With Greenland picking up the pace of construction, there is sure to be more tension between Forest City and its newly in-the-driver’s-seat partner.

8: Assemblywoman Jo Anne Simon

Longtime Brooklyn Democratic Party functionary Jo Anne Simon now has a modicum of real power as Brooklyn Heights’ assemblywoman. So how is she going to use it?

Simon made her name as a reformer in the party, pushing back against the old-boys’ club led by now-disgraced former assemblyman Vito Lopez. She won procedural changes to boost transparency within the party, but had to win the support of the machine to beat out Working-Families-Party-backed rival Pete Sikora.

7: Red Hook

Undaunted by the floodwaters of superstorm Sandy and the two measly bus lines that connect the waterfront neighborhood to the rest of Brooklyn, developers are looking to build big in Red Hook. And not just luxury housing.

Hollywood developer Est4te

See **WATCH** on page 10

For auld bang syne

Brooklyn gripped by car crashes in first week

TRAGEDY IN KENSINGTON

By Vanessa Ogle
The Brooklyn Paper

A Borough Park man died in a four-car crash in Kensington on Monday, police said.

Jose Hoffman, 56, was driving near Ditmas Avenue and Ocean Parkway when he hit another vehicle at 10:13 am, according to the authorities. The crash came to involve two other cars and also injured a 58-year-old woman, officers said.

Emergency responders transported Hoffman to Maimonides Medical Center, where a doctor pronounced him dead on arrival, an NYPD spokesman said, adding that Hoffman likely suffered a heart attack while driving.



A vehicle involved in the fatal Jan. 5 crash.

“We believe at this point the DOA had some type of episode, went into cardiac arrest while driving,” the officer said.

The Collision Investigation Squad is still investigating the crash, police said.

CAR SLAMS COBBLE HILL PUB

By Matthew Perlman
The Brooklyn Paper

No drive-thru here.

An allegedly drunk motorist crashed into the front of Henry Public at 3:30 pm, smashing the front window and knocking a door off its hinges. A worker at the Henry Street watering hole was thankful more people weren’t hurt.

“I can’t believe no one was on the sidewalk at the time,” said Martin McLoughlin, a manager at the bar and restaurant. “It could have been a lot worse.”

The restaurant was closed at the time of the crash but the driver, a 66-year-old Queens man, was injured and transported to Lutheran Medical Center, according to the

police and fire departments. He was then arrested and charged with drunk and unlicensed driving. McLoughlin said the crash may have damaged the foundation of the building, which is between Atlantic Avenue and Pacific Street.

The pub had not reopened by Wednesday afternoon, at press time.

COPS’ HOOD-RIDE HEADACHE

By Noah Hurowitz
The Brooklyn Paper

They have two kinds of fall-out to worry about.

A police officer could face disciplinary action after he sustained a head injury when a ride on the hood of police cruiser in Kensington went terribly wrong on Monday, sending him to the hospital and prompting higher-ups to suspend the driver, according to the NYPD.

Officer Ahmed Shuhel was

riding facedown on the hood of the squad car, driven by Officer Michael Gargano, down Seton Place toward Parkville Avenue shortly after 7:45 am, according to video footage.

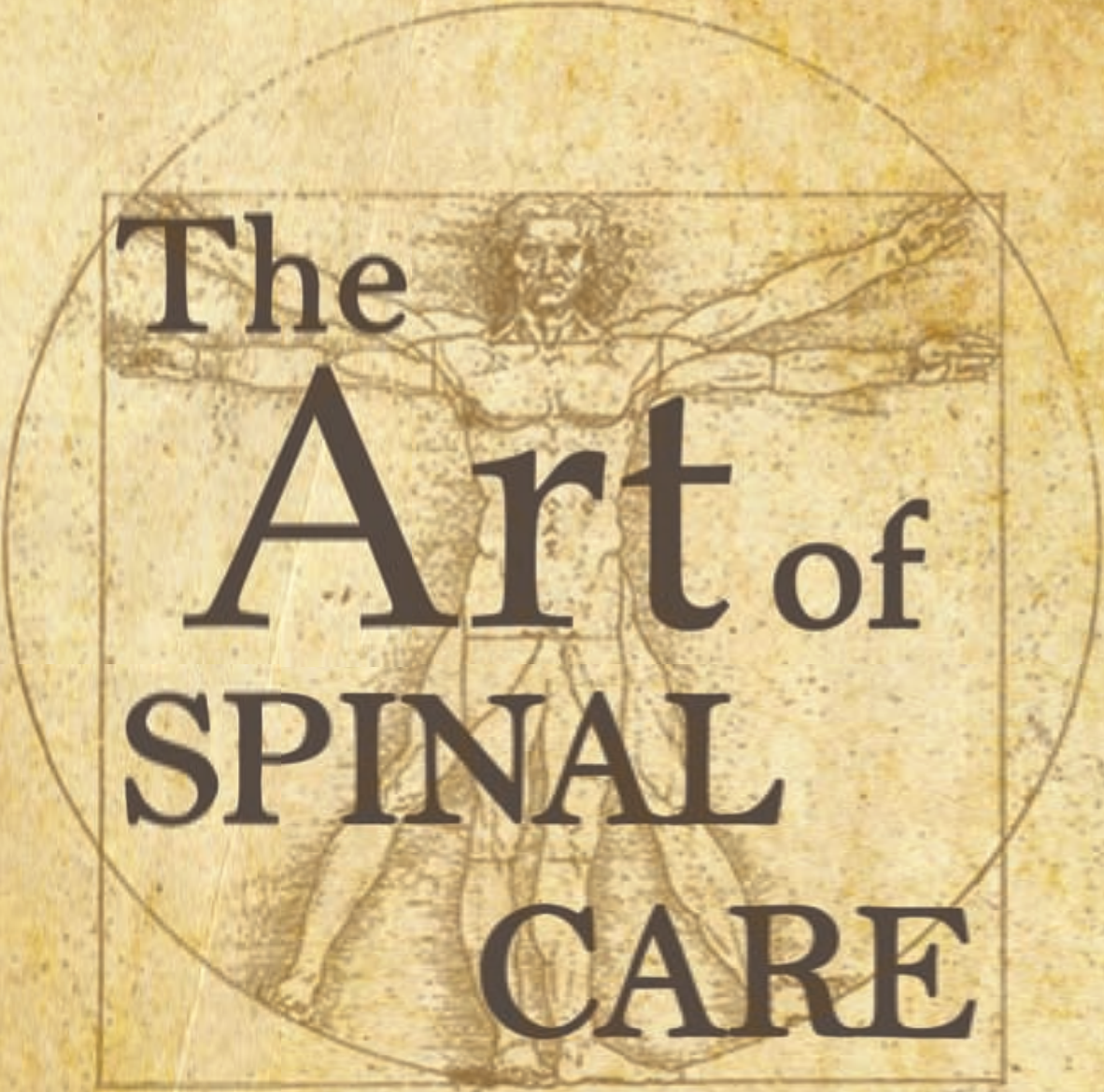
The possible joyride came to an abrupt end when the cruiser stopped short, pitching Shuhel backward and causing him to bash his head on the pavement, the spokeswoman said.

Responders transported Shuhel to Lutheran Medical

Center in stable condition, according to a report.

An internal investigation into the incident is underway, and the spokeswoman said Shuhel could face disciplinary action, including a possible suspension, if he is found to be at fault.

The footage shows an officer strolling down the street in front of the car, turning at the sound of Shuhel hitting the ground, then dropping his bag and bending over to help.



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STATIC CLING

Kids invent cellphone-charging T-shirts

By Matthew Perlman
The Brooklyn Paper

These Flatbush middle schoolers are stitching together new ideas about technology.

A tech-centric after-school program at the Science, Technology, and Research School in the Erasmus campus on Flatbush Avenue is teaching sixth and seventh graders how to make tech gadgets you can wear. One student said the class made him think differently about the digital world he grew up in.

“I like technology and working with computers, but this was different,” said Jaedan Alexander, a sixth grader at the school.

Pow! Caped Crusaders in Technology is one of many programs run by the Brooklyn College Community Partnership in the Erasmus campus, which contains five separate schools. The arts and technology group Eyebeam is helping to run the wearable technology class, and recently received a \$10,000 grant from Time Warner Cable to help. The students’ idea for their first project: a shirt that can charge a cellphone.

“My friend needed to charge his phone but he didn’t have a charger or any place to charge it,” said sixth-grader Souleymane Bah. “We wanted to do something that would help.”

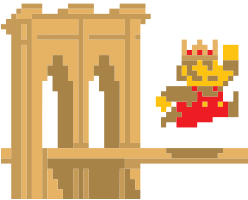
The students got to work designing and making T-shirts with built-in pockets that can hold a cellphone charger and a battery. Most of the kids said the low-tech part of wearable technology is actually the hardest part.

“I’ve never sewn before,” said Sirr White, another sixth-grader. “It was hard. It takes a long time.”

The director of the class said



Photo by Elizabeth Graham



CIRCUIT LORD
Eye on technology and innovation in Brooklyn

that kind of challenge is exactly what is good about it.

“I think programs like this are important because they encourage kids to push boundaries,” said Toni Pizza, a graduate of New York University’s Game Center.

Brooklyn College Community Partnership’s site director said she tries to make sure the kids are given as many different experiences as possible, noting that the group offers theater, art, and fitness cur-

Sixth-grader Adam Mun-go models a cellphone-charger-equipped T-shirt he made as part of a wearable-technology class.

riculums in some of its other programs.

“Students tend not to be exposed to some of these opportunities, especially if they’re living in certain neighborhoods,” said Bobbie Brown. “We want every kid to have every opportunity possible.”

The point of the wearable technology program is to get kids thinking about making things, Brown said.

“Once they see that it’s not that hard, they’ll say ‘I can do this,’” Brown explained. “Be more creative, take control. We’re really pushing that entrepreneurial spirit.”

After finishing their shirts, the students presented their work to the rest of their class and took questions about the potential product.

“Having conversations

about their projects is also important,” Brown said.

In the coming weeks, the same sixth graders will work on ways to improve on their designs, and will get ready for another presentation.

“Now we want to upgrade them,” Alexander said. “I want to add some LED lights.”

Brown said innovative programs like Pow! should be more widely available to all students in the city, not just those from wealthier and whiter areas.

“These kids don’t need to go all the way to the Upper East Side for this exposure,” she said. “They can get it right here in Flatbush.”

Techno Files

Final Frontier Designs, the Navy Yard space suit manufacturer, has landed a new partnership with the **National Aeronautics and Space Administration**. The unfunded collaboration is not quite as lucrative as a contract, but it will provide the company with technical assistance, advice, and other help from the nation’s space agency. The stated purpose of the collaboration is to foster advancement in the field of commercial space travel.

...
The **Chamber of Commerce** has announced that it will be working with **Google** to help small businesses build a web presence. The internet behemoth is kicking in \$25,000 for the initiative and will provide some technical expertise. The project is set to work in tandem with **Chamber on the Go**, an initiative launched last year that sends a consultant in a minivan to visit small businesspeople who do not have the time to come to visit the Chamber’s office. The Chamber’s street team will work with the businesses to get them using services such as **Facebook** and **Yelp**, and to make sure they are properly listed on **Google Maps**.

...
Kickstarter’s annual report shows \$529 million was pledged to Kickstarter projects by 3.3 million people in 2014. The online fund-raising website saw 22,252 successful campaigns, 4,000 of which were music-related. The report also shows that Wednesday is the most popular day for people to pledge.



Flagrant Fowl
with Crummy the Pigeon

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BrooklynPaper.com

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(718) 260-2500 *Brooklyn Paper's essential guide to the Borough of Brooklyn* January 9-15, 2015



Back on air

'90s Brooklyn rockers Dead Air reunite for one night

By Max Jaeger
The Brooklyn Paper

After 20 years of dead air, they're making noise again. Legendary Southern Brooklyn rock band Dead Air is reuniting for one night only at Williamsburg venue the Grand Victory on Jan. 10. The trio is playing at a goodbye party for some friends moving to San Francisco, members said. "This may be the only chance for people to see us play again," said guitarist John LaMacchia, a Gravesender. For fans who remember the band's heyday, the reunion is a big deal. One Bay Ridge musician who grew up listening to the power trio said the group garnered an intense following in the 1990s for its raw energy and masterful genre-blending. "They were light-years before their time," said Justin Brannan, the guitarist of Brooklyn bands Most Precious Blood

and Indecision. "These were hardcore kids playing something totally different, and it was stimulating and unique — it was as much Jane's Addiction as it was CBGBs. It was very much a movement at the time. It was cult-like." LaMacchia, bassist Mike MacIvor, and drummer Wayne K. Banner-Schneiderman formed Dead Air in 1992. The friends were fresh out of high school and needed an outlet to push their own musical boundaries, said Schneiderman, who lives in Sheepshead Bay. For nearly a decade, the three made a name for themselves in Southern Brooklyn's once-thriving rock clubs. The first show was at the now-closed Crazy Country Club in Bay Ridge. Within a couple years, Dead Air was headlining L'Amour — the so-called "rock capital of Brooklyn" in Borough Park where Metallica, Megadeth, and Twisted Sister cut their teeth before they became household names, members said.

MUSIC

Dead Air at the Grand Victory (245 Grand St. between Roebling Street and Driggs Avenue, (347) 529-6610, www.thegrand-victory.com). Jan. 10 at 7 pm. \$10

"L'Amour was a very important place for us to play, and by '94, we were headlining our shows and, if it didn't sell out, it was pretty close to selling out," LaMacchia said. Not long after, Dead Air was drawing scores of fans at Manhattan punk mecca CBGB and as far east as Long Island. A bus once ferried 70 Dead Air-heads to a show at the now-shuttered Ferrari's on Long Island, according to an article in the short-lived Long Island Voice. But Dead Air never broke out of the regional scene, and the members disbanded in 1998 for other projects. In the years since, the trio said they have

seen Brooklyn's music environment has change drastically. Indeed, many of the group's old haunts are long-buried. "We played lot of places that don't exist anymore," said Carroll Gardener MacIvor. The focus has shifted to Brooklyn's Manhattan-adjacent neighborhoods — once a rock wasteland, he said. "It's funny, that whole landscape has completely changed," MacIvor said. "One time Dead Air played a Polish club in Greenpoint, and it was a great time, but I remember people looked at us like we had 10 heads." But folks south of the Park are still keeping the old spirit alive, members said. "There is this DIY venue in Bensonhurst," LaMacchia said referring to borough newcomer Frank's Basement. "Maybe that's a glimpse into the future of what will be going on in Southern Brooklyn. Back in the day, in these neighborhoods, rock was happening here."

ART

White noise

It is a whitewash! A new exhibition opening at P339 gallery in Williamsburg on Jan. 9 features sculptures made from parts of toys and other small discarded objects all coated with a thick layer of white paint. The artist responsible said he wants the pieces to evoke the mindless sketches people draw in the margins of their notebooks, which is why he dubbed it "The Doodles." "Doodles are what you draw without thinking. And they don't usually have any color," said artist Shu Ohno, who hails from Japan and moved to Park Slope two years ago. "In the same way, I wanted to show these forms without color."

The centerpiece of the show is a life-sized figure of what appears to be a young soldier covered by hundreds of tiny components, including a pair of headphones, some goggles, and all manner of electrical bits. The monochromatic paint job gives the thing an otherworldly, post-apocalyptic feel. "It's very fantastical, bizarre, and kind of grotesque," said Samer Ghadry, the gallery's director. "You've got to see them up close." A guitar strung over the figure's back injects a rock 'n' roll sensibility to the piece, and also recalls Ohno's roots as a frontman for a band back in his home country of Japan. "I'm only a musician in Japan," said Ohno. "In Brooklyn, I'm trying to focus on my sculptures."

Some of Ohno's better-known work focuses on the deconstruction of guitars, working them over with power tools until they appear to be corroding away. But his new pieces offer a stark contrast, with tiny pieces piled up to form new, intricate objects. The relatively small size of P339 will make viewing "The Doodles" an intimate experience, which Ohno said is exactly how he wants it to be seen. "A small space is good for me," he said. "These pieces are very complex."

"The Doodles" at P339 [339 Bedford Ave. between South Third and South Fourth streets in Williamsburg, (301) 529-1400, www.gallery.crosspointnyc.com]. Reception Jan. 9, 6 pm-9 pm. Free. Show runs Jan. 7-24.

— Matthew Perlman

MUSIC

Balkan up

Zlatne Uste is a folk band, but it doesn't play Pete Seeger or Joan Baez tunes. The local 12-piece outfit plays the modern folk music of south and central Serbia, Macedonia, northwest Bulgaria, and northern Greece. In other words, it has got the Balkan beat. But the sound is a product of evolution rather than intention, explained one band member. "Thirty years ago, there was an East Coast version of a brass camp where we went and all had so much fun, and we have been at it ever since," said Zlatne Uste tuba player Emerson Hawley. "We have gradually conformed more and more to the Serbian ideal." On Jan. 16 and 17, the band will host its 30th Zlatne Uste Golden Festival, which it bills as part showcase, part benefit, part Balkan Mardi Gras. Other acts on the bill of the two-day event, which takes place at Grand Prospect Hall in Park Slope, will include octogenarian Armenian-American clarinetist Souran Baronian, teen brass band Chocek Nation, and Moldovan-born Montreal-based accordion virtuoso Sergiu Popa.

Most of Zlatne Uste's members are not of Balkan descent, but they have traveled to the region six times to play and compete in folk music festivals since forming the band in 1983, Hawley said. The ensemble typically features trumpets, trombones, flugelhorns, and at least one saxophone, tuba, and a percussionist. But when it is time for a competition, the group has to drop the sax, since the instrument is not allowed. "It is a weird rule, because once it is time for the bands to go back into the clubs, there are always saxophones," said Hawley. But, he said, Balkan folk music is all about being adaptive and going with the flow. "A band picks up a tune, and soon everyone is playing it," said Hawley. "Everyone plays whatever is popular and whatever the audience wants. We do not feel like we are copying, because everyone is copying."

The Zlatne Uste Golden Festival at Grand Prospect Hall (263 Prospect Ave. between Fifth and Sixth avenues in Park Slope, www.golden-fest.org). Jan. 16 at 7:30 pm, Jan. 17 at 6 pm. \$35-\$80.

— Danielle Furfaro



Dude drag: Comedians Calvin Cato, Lauren Maul, and Katie Compa put on their best dude faces.

Dude and rude

Comics spoof bro-medians

By Noah Hurowitz
The Brooklyn Paper

Dude jokes like a lady. Every month at Over the Eight bar in Williamsburg, misogynistic men take the stage to tell jokes. But closer inspection reveals the dirty joke-telling guys of Dudes Being Dudes Being Dudes are not your average straight comedy bros, but actually women and gay men in disguise. "My friends and I were kind of

COMEDY

Dudes Being Dudes Being Dudes at Over the Eight (594 Union Ave. at Richardson Street in Williamsburg, www.overtheeight.com). Jan. 13 at 8 pm. Free.

frustrated that every comedy show only has one girl on the lineup or one gay guy on the lineup, so we said, 'Hey, maybe we'll do a show where we dress up like dudes and do dude comedy,'" said Lauren Maul,

the show's founder. "Most lineups are pretty homogenous, so we try to mix it up." The event is rooted in satirizing straight male comedy, but the joke does not end there. Maul said she and her fellow performers not only poke fun at male comedians, but use their male characters to tell jokes in ways they might otherwise avoid. Maul, for instance, said she uses one of her "male" characters, Scott Talent (America Scott Talent, get it?), to skewer the comedy world's penchant for rape jokes, while also making a point about the prevalence of rape. "You have to think about who the punch line is," Maul said. "If the punch line is the rapist or the racist it's okay, but if it's the other way around, that's not the comedy I want. See DUDE on page 8



age 44



age 43



age 48

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WHERE TO GO

EDITORS' PICKS

FRIDAY Jan. 9

The show

La di da di, he likes to party! Hip-hop legend Slick Rick is celebrating his 50th birthday, and you're all invited. The Ruler will commemorate his half-century with a performance at Brooklyn Bowl, supported by soul band Amy Lynn and the Gun Show.

9 pm at Brooklyn Bowl [61 Wythe Ave. between N. 11th and N. 12th streets in Williamsburg, (718) 963-3369, www.brooklynbowl.com]. \$15.

SATURDAY Jan. 10

Zine kids

Self-promotion alert! The Brooklyn Paper's esteemed deputy editor Nathan Tempey will make a rare public appearance at Williamsburg bookstore Book Thug Nation to perform a live reading from his creative non-fiction zine Breakfast. The lineup also includes New Orleans writer Andru Okun recounting a Birthright trip to Israel, and punk artist and writer Cristy C. Road.

7 pm at Book Thug Nation (100 N. Third St. between Wythe Avenue and Berry Street in Williamsburg, www.book-thugnation.com). Free.

SUNDAY Jan. 11

Party god

When it's time to podcast, we will always podcast hard. Comedian Greg Barris is bringing a live recording of his podcast "Mind Warriors" to Park Slope. The show purports to blend comedy, science, and spirituality and his guest for this edition will be musician and advice columnist Andrew W.K., who will presumably wax philosophical about partying.

8 pm at Union Hall [702 Union St. between Fifth and Sixth avenues in Park Slope, (718) 638-4400, www.unionhallny.com]. \$10-\$12.

TUESDAY Jan. 13

Diet hard

Writer Rebecca Harrington road-tested the diets of celebrities past and present then wrote a book about the experience. The result is "I'll Have What She's Having," which she will launch at PowerHouse Arena, where she will discuss downing celery loaf and raw egg drinks.

7 pm at PowerHouse Arena [37 Main St. between Water and Front streets in Dumbo, (718) 666-3049, powerhouse-arena.com]. Free.

WEDNESDAY Jan. 14

Wonton more

Brooklyn has many free comedy nights, but Devour Hour at Hank's Saloon is the only one that also has free dumplings. This month's lineup includes funny people Sydnee Washington, Naomi Karavani, Brandon Scott Wolf, Kale Bogdanovs, and Julia Shiplett.

8 pm at Hank's Saloon [46 Third Ave. at Atlantic Avenue in Boerum Hill, www.exitfive.com/hankssaloon]. Free.

NINE DAYS IN BROOKLYN

FRI, JAN. 9

THEATER, "YOUARENOWHERE": Andrew Schneider's work experiments with sensory overload via an interactive new-media landscape. The Invisible Dog Art Center [51 Bergen St. between Boerum Pl. and Dean St. in Cobble Hill, (347) 560-3641], www.theinvisibledog.org.

ART, "OPEN ENDED" OPENING RECEPTION: Artist Clinton King investigates the uncanny logic inherent in misdirection and interpretation, navigating a variety of processes and color palettes to create both flat and airy spaces. Free. 6-9 pm. Transmitter (1329 Willoughby Ave. between Wyckoff and Saint Nicholas avenues in Bushwick), www.transmitter.nyc.

MUSIC, MOTHER FALCON, AND THE KIDS: \$15 (\$13 in advance). 7 pm. Littlefield [622 Degraw St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Gowanus, (718) 855-3388], www.littlefieldnyc.com.

MUSIC, WILLIE WATSON, ELLE KING: \$15 (\$12 in advance). 8 pm. Rough Trade NYC [64 N. Ninth St. between Kent and Wythe avenues in Williamsburg, (718) 388-4111], www.roughtrade.nyc.com.

MUSIC, "TOXIC PSALMS": Vocal theater women's ensemble Carmina Slovenica channels ancient and modern cultures, drawing from Africa, the Middle East, Pussy Riot, and themes of oppression give voice to victims across the world. \$20. 8 pm. St. Ann's Warehouse [29 Jay St. between John and Plymouth streets in Dumbo, (718) 254-8779], www.stannwarehouse.org.

MUSIC, BRIDGES AND POWERLINES, THE AYE-AYES, MISTRI/MISRACH: \$8. 8 pm. Union Hall [702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638-4400], www.unionhallny.com.

MUSIC, CALIFORNIA KING: Free. 9 pm. BAM Cafe (30 Lafayette Ave. between Ashland Place and St. Felix Street in Fort Greene), www.bam.org/programs/bamcafe-live.

MUSIC, PEANUT BUTTER WOLF, BREAKBEAT LOU: \$10. 11 pm. Brooklyn Bowl [61 Wythe Ave. between N. 11th and N. 12th streets in Williamsburg, (718) 963-3369], www.brooklynbowl.com.

Special delivery: The Nets takes on the 76ers at Barclays Center on Jan. 9.

COMING SOON TO BARCLAYS CENTER

FRI, JAN. 9

SPORTS, BROOKLYN NETS VS. PHILADELPHIA 76ERS: \$30-\$3,000. 7:30 pm.

MON, JAN. 12

SPORTS, BROOKLYN NETS VS. HOUSTON ROCKETS: \$55-\$3,000. 7:30 pm.

WED, JAN. 14

SPORTS, BROOKLYN NETS VS. MEMPHIS GRIZZLIES: \$20-\$3,000. 7:30 pm.

SAT, JAN. 17

SPORTS, LIU BROOKLYN BLACK-BIRDS VS. MOUNT ST. MARY BLUE KNIGHTS: \$15-\$25. 11:45 am and 2 pm.

SPORTS, BROOKLYN NETS VS. WASHINGTON WIZARDS: \$35-\$3,000. 8 pm.

SUN, JAN. 25

MUSIC, LINKIN PARK: \$69.50-\$98.50. 7:30 pm.

MON, JAN. 26

SPORTS, BROOKLYN NETS VS. PORTLAND TRAILBLAZERS: \$35-\$3,000. 7:30 pm.

620 Atlantic Ave. at Pacific Street in Prospect Heights (917) 618-6100, www.barclayscenter.com.

SAT, JAN. 10

THEATER, "INNOCENT DIVERSIONS, A CHRISTMAS ENTERTAINMENT WITH JANE AUSTEN AND FRIENDS": Theater 2020 present its next piece in its "Hearthside Reading Series" with a fictional glimpse into Jane Austen's life on an evening in 1803, at a party with her family. Based off of her novel "Juvenilia." Free. 2:30 pm. Brooklyn Heights Library (280 Cadman Plaza West at Tillary St. in Brooklyn Heights), www.theater2020.com.

MUSIC, EMEFE, NO BS! BRASS BAND, COCEK! BRASS BAND: \$15 (\$12 in advance). 8 pm. Littlefield [622 Degraw St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Gowanus, (718) 855-3388], www.littlefieldnyc.com.

MUSIC, ENZIGUR, DONE WITH YOU, THE WELCH BOYS, ALL TORN UP: \$10. 8 pm. Trash Bar [256 Grand St. at Driggs Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 599-1000], www.thetrashbar.com.

ART, "HORSES" OPENING RECEPTION: Tim Bruniges' interactive exhibition showcases a commune of horses in frosty Iceland. Using sound, objects, and light, Bruniges explores movement and the tension between stasis and flux, which lies at the focal point of his practice. Free. 6-9 pm. Chasm Gallery (58 Bogart St. between Bogart St. and Morgan Avenue in Bushwick), www.chasm-gallery.com.

ART, CATCH COIL: A showcase of rough excerpts of artists' works-in-progress, providing them with an audience to bounce their ideas against and a platform to get presenters excited about their work. With musical performances and free beer. Free. 7 pm. The Invisible Dog Art Center [51 Bergen St. between Boerum Pl. and Dean St. in Cobble Hill, (347) 560-3641], www.theinvisibledog.org.

See 9 DAYS on page 8

CNG

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NEW YORK PRESS ASSOCIATION NYPA

WHIT-MANIA! TWO ART SHOWS INSPIRED BY WALT WHITMAN

Walter-ed states

B’wick art show celebrates Walts

By **Trupti Rami**
for The Brooklyn Paper

Heisenberg lives!

A new exhibition at Bushwick gallery TSA is celebrating two very different men with very similar names: Walt Whitman and Walter White. “The Two States of W.W.,” which opens Jan. 9, is inspired by a pivotal scene in television show “Breaking Bad,” when protagonist Walter White’s Drug Enforcement Administration agent brother-in-law finds White’s copy of Whitman’s famed poetry collection “Leaves of Grass” with the inscription, “To my other favorite W.W.,” which incriminates him as the meth drug lord known as Heisenberg.

“Vince Gilligan, the show’s writer, had already woven ‘Leaves of Grass’ throughout the series, so this moment ties White and Whitman together for a tragic turn in ‘Breaking Bad,’” said curator Andrew Prayzner. “I liked that W.W. could embody two different people, but they are taken to be the same person. The duality of W.W. was a metaphor that I wanted to use when thinking about living in two disparate regions and the psychological impact that it creates.”

Whitman was from New York, and White from New Mexico, so each of the 12 artists featured in “The Two States of W.W.” has spent time in both New York and New Mexico. One artist, Eric Amabe Garduno, coincidentally drew storyboards for “Breaking Bad”’s pilot episode.

“If an artist lives, or has lived, in two very disparate places — in this case New York and New Mexico — they are especially sensitive to the differences in light, time, mass, and culture in each respective place,” said Prayzner. “I believe that experiencing such radical shifts has an impact on how one sees and how one approaches making an object.”

Visual artist Amanda Lechner, who grew up in New Mexico, created her painting for the show while listening to a “Leaves of Grass” audiobook. Titled “Delicious Flavin, Judd enough crunch!,” it depicts a moment observed in a New York City art gallery, featuring a gallery attendant eating Doritos, flanked by the minimalist works



Well versed: Amanda Lechner made this painting for “The Two States of W.W.” while listening to an audiobook of “Leaves of Grass.”

ART

“The Two States of W.W.” at TSA [1329 Willoughby Ave. #2A between Wyckoff and St. Nicholas avenues in Bushwick, (347) 746–8041, www.newyork.tigerstrikesasteroid.com]. Jan. 9–Feb. 15. Free.

of New York artists Donald Judd and Dan Flavin.

In putting together the show, Prayzner also looked at the long tra-

dition of artists moving from New York to New Mexico. The list of transplants includes Mabel Dodge Luhan, D.H. Lawrence, Georgia O’Keeffe, and Richard Tuttle.

“I started to research how their work changed when they moved west. Turns out, there are lot of artists that have shared experiences in New York and New Mexico,” he said. “I would like the audience to consider how the artist’s environment affects their decision-making in their practice.”



Artist’s twisted vista

Sculptor recreates warped view from home

By **Danielle Furfaro**
The Brooklyn Paper

Patrick Jacobs wants to bring his audience home — sort of.

The sculpture and performance artist’s new show features a warped re-creation of his Prospect Lefferts Gardens apartment, including an equally distorted interpretation of the view from his window. The panorama — a huge, three-dimensional forest of trees fashioned from materials including lichen, industrial expansion foam, and paper mache — takes some artistic license, he said.

“In reality, all I see is a wall of trees, but I imagine an infinite vista behind the trees,” said Jacobs.

The piece is the crown jewel of the exhibit titled “Come Closer to Me” — named for a line in Walt Whitman’s “Leaves of Grass” — opening at Pierogi gallery in Williamsburg on Jan. 16. Jacobs said his intention is to challenge the audience’s ideas of reality and perception, exploring the gap between what is and what appears to be.

“It is how individuals comes to terms



Grass roots: Top, “Interior with View of the Gowanus Heights,” and above, a small diorama from “Come Closer to Me.”

with our identity or their place in the world, who are we and where are we going, why are we here,” said Jacobs, who has spent months working on all the components of the show.

Visitors to the show will first be greeted with Jacobs’ etchings, which depict grasses and lawns diseased by infections and funguses.

ART

“Come Closer to Me” at Pierogi [177 N. Ninth St. between Fourth and Park avenues in Williamsburg, (718) 599–2144, www.pierogi2000.com]. Opening reception Jan. 16 at 7–9 pm. Free. Show runs through Feb. 15.

“There is the way that grass is idealized to look, and then the way it really looks,” he said. “I want to show the differences between those.”

In the main room of the gallery will be several small dioramas of grass-filled landscapes that are only visible at certain angles behind portals of glass.

Finally, at the rear of Pierogi, gallery-goers will reach the apartment piece, “Interior with View of the Gowanus Heights.” Jacobs said he strove to make the installation as jarring as possible, with several contorted items of furniture and repeated angles.

“It is distorted and warped and twisted and you start to realize all the imperfections,” said Jacobs.

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Like a Moliere

P'Slope play puts modern spin on classic dark comedy 'The Miser'

By Vanessa Ogle
The Brooklyn Paper

Almost three centuries before Scrooge McDuck and his freeloading nephews, there was this guy.

The Brave New World Repertory Theatre is performing the 17th century dark comedy "The Miser" at the Grand Prospect Hall throughout January. French playwright Moliere penned the work in 1668, but a spokesperson for the company said the show's theme of greed is still very relevant on and off stage in 2015.

"The play is surprisingly apropos for today — a harsh indictment wrapped in pastel-colored candy coating," said Shannon Sindelar, who is the producing artistic director for

THEATER

"The Miser" at the Grand Prospect Hall [263 Prospect Ave. between Fifth and Sixth avenues in Park Slope, (212) 352-3101, www.bravenew-worldrep.org] Jan. 13–14, and 20–21 at 7 pm. \$18–\$25.

Brave New World.

"The Miser" centers on wealthy but frugal father Harpagon and his adult children who, like many Millennials today, still live at home. But Sindelar said instead of helping his kids, the tightwad Harpagon heckles them during their adventures into adulthood.

"Our contemporary take, reimagined as a fable about the 1 percent and performed in modern dress, shines a spotlight on the

economic dependency of a new generation of 20- and 30-some-things still living at home with their parents and, consequently, under their thumb," she said, adding that the theme is more relatable than ever for a large group of today's young people and their parents.

Also modernized is the production's music, which Sindelar described as "eclectic art rock, played on the piano."

And she said that while the play's caustic dialogue has not been updated, it feels just as modern as the subject matter.

"This was written in the 1660s, but it has more a contemporary feel in the humor," said Sindelar. "Our whole mission is to surprise our audience with unusual experiences that enhance the storytelling."



None the miser: Caroline Ryburn as Frosine and Ezra Barnes as Harpagon in a scene from "The Miser."

DUDE...

Continued from page 5

to be a part of."

In the male-dominated comedy scene, women have an uphill battle to fight, Maul said. They have to be careful not to pigeon-hole themselves as "feminist comedians" and are expected to let misogyny roll off their back, lest they be accused of failing to have a sense of humor.

"I know girls who won't put feminist material in their set," she said. "We have to be more conscious, but dudes don't have a care in the world, and I envy that."

It is not just performers Maul hopes to free from the pressures of the majority straight male comedy world. She said the homophobia and misogyny of some male comics' acts often puts audience members in an uncomfortable posi-

tion too, and hopes Dudes Being Dudes Being Dudes offers an alternative, safer space for people to enjoy a laugh.

"There is scary stuff that people will say as a joke, but it's actually scary," she said. "I had a friend at an open mic once, she was the only woman in the audience and a guy threatened they were going to lock the doors on her."

And even when audience members do heckle at this comedy night, it is in the spirit of the event. Maul said that on one memorable night, a bachelorette party was in attendance and one of performers had to endure a flurry of anti-male heckling from the drunken bridal party while delivering her satirical misogynist comedy set.

"She knew it was a girl and could get away with heckling her without someone threatening to rape her on the way home," Maul said.

9 DAYS...

Continued from page 6

ART, "YES/NO" OPENING RECEPTION: Artist Lena Lapschina presents a spatial installation of two light objects produced from sixteen standard fluorescent tubes. **Free.** 7–9 pm. Open Source Gallery [306 17th St. at Sixth Avenue in Park Slope, (646) 279-3969], www.open-source-gallery.org.

SUN, JAN. 11

MUSIC, ROBERT SIROTA: Composer-in-resident monthly concert. **Free.** 3 pm. St. John's Episcopal Church [139 St. John's Pl. between Sixth and Seventh avenues in Park Slope, (718) 783-3928], www.saintjohns-brooklyn.com.

MUSIC, LEAH COLOFF, INDIE SAUCE, AFTERTHOUGHT, THE SILVER TONGUES: \$7. 8 pm. Trash Bar [256 Grand St. at Driggs Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 599-1000], www.thetrashbar.com.

MUSIC, FORCE MAJEURE: \$10. 8:30 pm. The Cobra Club [6 Wyckoff Avenue between Jefferson and Troutman streets in Bushwick], www.cobraclubbk.com.

READING, SUZANNE MYERS: Suzanne Myers reads from her new young adult novel "Stone Cove Island," about a 17 year old boy who discovers a confession to a thirty-year old crime in the wake of a small coastal town devastated by a hurricane. **Free.** 4 pm. BookCourt [163 Court St. between Pacific and Dean streets in Cobble Hill, (718) 875-3677], www.bookcourt.org.

MON, JAN. 12

READING, ANYA KAMENETZ: Journalist Anya Kamenetz reads from her new book "The Test," documenting how and where the influx of standardized-testing began and how parents can fight can against it. **Free.** 7 pm. BookCourt [163 Court St. between Pacific and Dean streets in Cobble Hill, (718) 875-3677], www.bookcourt.org.

READING, KIM ADDONIZIO, KATIE BRYUM, AND DIANA WHITNEY: These three poets will share the stage to share from their latest works. **Free.** 7 pm. Pacific Standard [82 Fourth Ave. between Warren and Dean streets in Park Slope, (718) 858-1951], www.pacificstandardbrooklyn.com.



Chk-chk-chk it out: Dance-punk band !!! plays Union Pool Jan. 9 and 10.

TUES, JAN. 13

MUSIC, RJD2, D.V.S*: \$20. 6 pm. Brooklyn Bowl [61 Wythe Ave. between N. 11th and N. 12th streets in Williamsburg, (718) 963-3369], www.brooklynbowl.com.

READING, INDIE PRESS TEA-MUP: Dzanc Books and Curbside Splendor. Two upstart indie presses bring three of their authors to Greenlight. **Free.** 7:30 pm. Greenlight Bookstore [686 Fulton St. between S. Elliott Place and S. Portland Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 246-0200], greenlightbookstore.com.

WED, JAN. 14

READING, PAMELA KATZ: Author Pamela Katz reads excerpts from her book "The Partnership," which portrays the relationship between a singer and songwriter in Weimar Germany, with a musical performance by Karen Kohler. **Free.** 7:30 pm. Greenlight Bookstore [686 Fulton St. between S. Elliott Place and S. Portland Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 246-0200], greenlightbookstore.com.

MUSIC, TENDER GLUE, LARP, ISRAEL HELLER, KATELYN RICHARDS, TINIDA: \$10. 8 pm. Trash Bar [256 Grand

St. at Driggs Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 599-1000], www.thetrashbar.com.

THURS, JAN. 15

DANCE, "SWAN LAKE": Performed by the Mariinsky Ballet Theatre Company. Starting at \$30. 7 pm. BAM Howard Gilman Opera House [30 Lafayette Ave. between Ashland Place and St. Felix Street in Fort Greene], www.bam.org.

READING, JONNY STEINBERG: South African journalist tells the story of Somali Abad Abdullahi in his book "A Man of Good Hope." **Free.** 7:30 pm. Greenlight Bookstore [686 Fulton St. between S. Elliott Place and S. Portland Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 246-0200], greenlightbookstore.com.

ART, "THE TMT STEIN LAB": 75 artists contribute to seven original pieces and three special events about author Gertrude Stein. \$15. 7:30 pm. Bushwick Starr [207 Starr St. between Irving and Wyckoff avenues in Bushwick], www.thebushwickstarr.org.

COMEDY, SIDE PONYTAIL: Comedy from Aparna Nancharla, Monroe Martin, Scotland Green, Katie Hanigan, Gabriel Pacheco, Carolyn Busa, and Blair Succi. Hosted by Patrick Hastie.

Free. 8 pm. Over the Eight [594 Union Ave. at Richardson Street in Williamsburg], www.overtheight.com.

MUSIC, ANCIENT SKY, BO-DEGA BAY, PSYCHIATRIC METAPHORS, ELECTRIC PEOPLE: \$7. 8 pm. Silent Barn [603 Bushwick Ave. between Jefferson and Melrose streets in Bushwick], silentbarn.org.

FRI, JAN. 16

MUSIC, IN THE USA: Tribute to Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band. \$20. 6 pm. Brooklyn Bowl [61 Wythe Ave. between N. 11th and N. 12th streets in Williamsburg, (718) 963-3369], www.brooklynbowl.com.

MUSIC, THE VASELINES, AMANDA X: \$25 (\$22 in advance). 8 pm. Bell House [149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 643-6510], www.thebell-houseyny.com.

MUSIC, OUTMUSIC AWARDS BENEFIT CONCERT: Awarding the best in the LGBTQ music entertainment scene, and features a lineup of LGBTQ artists. All proceeds will go to the Brooklyn Community Pride Center. \$30 (\$20 in advance). 8 pm. Littlefield [622 Degraw St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Gowanus, (718) 855-3388], www.littlefieldnyc.com.

MUSIC, SAM OWENS, VIDEO DAUGHTERS, MEENK, LASER BACKGROUND, DJ MR. TWIN SISTER: \$7. 8 pm. Silent Barn [603 Bushwick Ave. between Jefferson and Melrose streets in Bushwick], silentbarn.org.

SAT, JAN. 17

THEATER, "RUN FOR YOUR WIFE": The Gallery Players present Ray Cooney's farce. 2 pm and 8 pm. Gallery Players [199 14th St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Park Slope, (212) 352-3101], www.gallery-players.com.

DANCE, "CINDERELLA": Performed by the Mariinsky Ballet. Starting at \$30. 7:30 pm. BAM Howard Gilman Opera House [30 Lafayette Ave. between Ashland Place and St. Felix Street in Fort Greene], www.bam.org.

DANCE, DESTINY: The Restoration Dance Theatre dance company celebrates the life and times of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. \$15 and \$20. 7 pm. Kumble Theater at Long Island University [DeKalb and Flatbush avenues in Downtown, (718) 488-1624], www.brooklyn.liu.edu/kumbletheater.



MONTHLY HEALTH TIPS from New York Methodist Hospital

Working Out in Winter Weather

By Matthew Wert, M.D., Director of Sports Medicine, New York Methodist Hospital

When it comes to physical fitness in the New Year, I plan to be a "winter warrior." No matter how cold it is, I'll be outside running, biking and keeping up with my physical fitness plan. However, I want to make sure I take all the proper precautions to avoid any health hazards posed by working out in the winter weather. Can you tell me what I should be on the lookout for, and what I can do to prepare?

Whether it's to fulfill a New Year's weight loss resolution, or a desire to get an extra dose of sunlight during the short January days, there are plenty of Brooklynites like you who are willing to bear the cold in exchange for a good workout in the winter. Just be sure to take some extra precautions before you head outside.

To start, warming up and stretching properly is crucial at any time of year, but never more so than when it's cold. Cold weather inhibits the flow of blood to your muscles, causing them to contract rapidly in freezing temperatures. This makes your body more susceptible to injury — pulls, tears and even falls. Stretching indoors prior to your workout, then stretching again out of doors after a brief warm-up may help. And minimize breaks in your exercise or keep them as short as possible to avoid giving your muscles the opportunity to tighten up.

If you exercise outdoors in the winter, be sure you are wearing the proper clothing. Hypothermia, which occurs when the body's temperature falls below 95 degree Fahrenheit, can be serious or even fatal, so dress in layers, which help to retain heat. (Another winter workout concern is frostbite — especially, frostbite caused by wind chill. The thermometer might read 35 degrees Fahrenheit in still air, but if you're going for a run at an average pace, you effectively create your own wind chill that's below freezing. Simi-



Matthew Wert, M.D., Director of Sports Medicine at New York Methodist Hospital.

larly, if you're biking at an average pace, an air temperature of 40 degrees Fahrenheit will create a freezing wind chill. Frostbite can take as little as 30 minutes to occur, and even less time in colder weather. That's why it's advisable to keep your outdoor workouts short, and protect your skin from exposure to the cold.

There are certainly benefits to cold weather physical activity—particularly if the alternative is no physical activity. Taking the proper steps will ensure that the cold weather doesn't put your fitness on ice.

Dr. Wert is an attending orthopedic surgeon and director of sports medicine at New York Methodist Hospital. For referral to a physician affiliated with NYM's Institute for Orthopedic Medicine and Surgery, call 1.866.ORTHO.11. (1.866.678.4611).

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Changing what to expect from health insurance.

CONEY...

Continued from page 1

went largely unnoticed, as our eyes were glued to the fabulous in-room TV, which piped out round-the-clock, uncensored, close-ups of adult situations — on channel 69, of course. We both slept surprisingly well, apart from a 5 am call from the concierge informing me that I needed to pay for another four hours or else hit the bricks.

If the Beep wants to lure tourists to Coney Island for more than a day, the novelty glasses crowd will definitely need somewhere else to stay. Some are speculating a hotel may be in the People’s Playground’s future. The Beep said he is looking to Airbnb to house travelers and help locals pay their bills, which won’t sit well with hoteliers elsewhere in the borough, but is likely a step up from where I spent the night.

NEW YEAR’S DAY

The next day, I was contractually bound to jump headlong into the frigid Atlantic Ocean for that 112-year-old Brooklyn tradition, the Coney Island Polar Bear Club’s annual New Year’s plunge.

My lovely assistant and I had some time to kill between our 9 am motel checkout and the 1 pm affront to good sense on the beach. Lucky for us, there was plenty of local shopping right outside our front door at Caesar’s Bay, the big-box mecca of Bensonhurst, boasting a Kohl’s, a Best Buy, and a Toys ‘R’ Us.

A Best Buy employee



Photo by Steve Solomonson

Borough President Adams on emcee duty.

I assembled with the hundreds of other bathers in my heat. My fellow plungers steeled their nerves, humming battle hymns for strength. I whistled my own paean — “Cheeseburger in Paradise” and started trotting to the surf.

Bathers who had already made it to the water were laughing and splashing in the icy brine. Hearing them in front of me, my salty dread mixed with crystal-clear joy. Is this what it’s like to pass into the afterlife?

My spiritual musing ended the instant I hit the water. It didn’t really hurt—it was more of a sensory overload. Everything but my lizard brain froze. “Get out as fast as possible” became the overriding impulse. But in a triumph of human folly over survival instinct, I waded in waist-deep and submerged myself in the frigid sea. It was painless and exhilarating, and anyone on the fence should absolutely do it.

As we beat a hasty retreat toward our respective changing rooms packed with shivering, bare-bottomed Brooklynites, my lovely assistant shouted to me, “We should make this a tradition!”

The Dad’s ruling on rules



It’s another Saturday night and I wake up from a snooze on the sofa to the sound of the front door. Looking at the clock, I realize my 17-year-old daughter is late getting home — again — but not by much. Within moments, she is in front of me for her required check-in. Home safe, all good. Or is it?

I’m struggling with the importance of minor infractions to the rules and how to respond. In this case, my girl could lose a night out or have an earlier curfew for a weekend. Both would make sense and are measured, reasonable reactions.

Looking at the bigger picture, though, I don’t want to punish her when, overall, she’s

doing well. School reports are good, homework gets done, she lets me know where she is and what she is doing. Maybe most important of all, she isn’t stumbling in from her nights out with bloodshot eyes, reeking of various substances. What’s the big deal if she’s 15 or 20 minutes late on a weekend or vacation night?

Following this line of thought leads me towards giving up on rules altogether. As long as she’s doing what she needs to — school, home, activities — let her run her own life, right? I’ll step in if she

starts to fall apart.

Except I can’t go there. I believe in rules, even for a junior in high school. Well, especially for a junior in high school! My teenager is mostly a rational, thoughtful, sensible human being, but there are definitely situations where her judgment is lacking and my directives give her guidance. Rules and parents are a training ground for the rest of her

life. Jobs, roommates, college; so many situations have regulations and requirements attached, and if she thinks they are always malleable then she’ll be in big trouble.

There’s also what I call broken windows parenting — staying on top of the small stuff to keep the big problems from forming. I’m sympathetic to this perspective, but I worry being too rigid and unyielding about every rule would only push my daughter to hide whatever she is up to.

Thinking back to when she was little, I remember a piece of advice I took to heart: only make rules you are willing to enforce.

That was good advice when it came to the playground or

WATCH....

Continued from page 1

Four is planning to mix that standby of new development with huge amounts of office, retail, and performance space, envisioning new developments at five formerly industrial buildings — and counting — including one section with a waterfront park.

6: The legacy of Charles Hynes

Upon being roundly defeated by Ken Thompson, Hynes, the 23-year district attorney hailed for inventive anti-recidivism programs, quickly saw his legacy blemished as Thompson assem-

bled a special team to reopen Hynes’s old cases. The team has overturned one conviction after another, and in June, it was revealed that Hynes is under scrutiny for potentially criminal behavior of his own, with the release of a bombshell city report stating he may have used \$200,000 in funds seized from suspects to pay a political consultant. Reports of state and federal investigations into Hynes’s activity also loom large.

5: The Sunset Park waterfront

Cut off from the rest of Sunset Park since Robert Mo-

ses’s Gowanus Expressway went up in 1941, the harbor-side of the neighborhood has long been defined by its auto-body shops, porn stores, and federal prison. All that is still there, but as new investment rakes across the borough, even this far-flung, uninviting area is seeing changes. The area has a new waterfront park, its big industrial hubs are getting an influx of high-end tenants, and the Sims recycling plant is powering up New York’s largest ever windmill, making the innovation impossible to miss — even from the Gowanus Expressway.

4: The Democratic National Convention

We’ve already laid out why

Philadelphia and Columbus, Ohio stink as 2016 convention host cities. The only question that remains is whether Democratic party planners know what’s good for them.

3: Michael Grimm’s seat

The race is heating up for the tax-cheating former congressman’s former seat, and from the speculation and coy statements currently swirling, it looks like it is going to be a many-directional fight, with a lot of willing candidates in both the Democratic and Republican parties.

2: Crummy the Pigeon

Still riding high off our readers picking him to re-

place lackluster Nets mascot the Brooklyn Knight and scoring a weekly Nets column in the pages of this illustrious paper, Crummy the Pigeon is the curmudgeonly sports and garbage-food critic the world needs. Luckily for the world, we are going to continue making him available.

1: Our readers

Look, we know this reads suspiciously like the cop-out that was the 2006 Time magazine Person of the Year award, but our readers are always surprising us with their creativity, passion, antics, tomfoolery, and insight. So keep doing what you’re doing, and if you think it’s interesting, drop us a line at editorial@cnglocal.com.

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